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April 4, 2016

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance

Dear Supervisor Solis,

On behalf of Athens Services, I am writing to support the Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance.

At Athens Services, our number one priority is safety...safety for our employees and safety for our customers and neighborhoods. This includes ensuring a safe work environment for employees who support the operations at our Materials Recovery Facilities. At all of Athens' facilities, staff are provided training and education regarding Sharps and other types of hazardous material that find their way into the waste stream.

As the largest waste hauler and recycler in Los Angeles County, our primary concern at Athens is the prevention of injuries to our employees. Without convenient options for consumers, Sharps are improperly disposed of in residential waste containers resulting in needle-stick injuries to our materials recovery facility workers.

Removing Sharps from the waste stream will require an unprecedented level of cooperation from residents, government and the private sector. As a stakeholder to the outcome of this policy, Athens commits to partnering with County officials, our customers and the private sector to reduce the hazard posed by the improper disposal of medical waste. Athens is proud of its current efforts to provide consumer-focused, outreach efforts to educate residents on appropriate collection and disposal methods of Sharps.

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In summary, Athens Services supports the adoption of this ordinance and commits to partnering with the County of Los Angeles and the private sector to protect the health and safety of our employees, customers and communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JOHNIE PERKINS', with a stylized, looping flourish extending to the right.

JOHNNIE PERKINS
Executive Vice- President

cc: The Honorable Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Mike Antonivich, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors